

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1184**

**Upper Falls School**

**7801 Bradshaw Road**

**Upper Falls, Baltimore County**

**1890 ca.**

**Private**

Although prior documentation on this property indicates that the extant resource was constructed in 1896 on a former school lot, exterior architectural evidence indicates that the present building is most likely the school that had been sited on the lot prior to the property's purchase by local Upper Falls residents. The 1850 county atlas indicates that the community of Upper Falls, sited at the intersection of Bradshaw Road and Raphel Road was just beginning to take shape in the mid-19th century. Between 1850 and 1877, a Methodist Episcopal church, general store, and school were constructed at the center of the community. The school was sited on the south corner of the intersection. Exterior architectural analysis did not result in a determination of the extant resource's exact age. It is possible that the present building was the school listed in the 1877 atlas, but further architectural survey and historical analysis would aid in determining the structure's age. Nevertheless, the building's form, a rectangular structure with a central projecting bell tower, is common to late 19th century schools, indicating that the building pre-dates 1896. In that year, the property was purchased by wealthy residents who spent summers in this resort town along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. According to prior documentation, the building was the setting for a Japanese Tea held in 1898 and later used for town gatherings and elections. By 1915, the community of Upper Falls was thriving, having expanded outside its previous borders and developing a greater building density at the main crossroads.

The Upper Falls School is a two-story wood frame building that has been extensively altered over the last seventy years. The structure is presently clad in asbestos shingles and has a solid random rubble stone foundation and a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The -bay-wide façade, or northwest elevation, is dominated by a central three-story tower that projects from the plane of the façade with a central paneled double-leaf metal door. The second story of the structure is pierced by two 6/6 windows and one flush single-leaf metal door that opens onto a metal fire escape supported by metal brackets and accessed by a straight-flight metal stair. A one-story, one-bay-square entry porch with a half-hipped roof supported by Tuscan columns shelters the entry, while the tower is further articulated by an open third story with a pyramidal roof with shaped eave brackets. To interior stretcher bond brick chimneys rise from the back slope of the main block and flank a central one-and-a-half-story circa 1910 ell that is two bays deep and terminates in a circa 1930 addition with a shed roof. A circa 1960 concrete block privy is also located on the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1184

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Upper Falls School (preferred), Upper Falls Lodge No. 175 M, I.O.O.F.  
other Casino

### 2. Location

street and number 7801 Bradshaw Road not for publication  
city, town Upper Falls vicinity  
county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Odd Fellows Hall  
street and number 7801 Bradshaw Road telephone Not Available  
city, town Upper Falls state MD zip code 21156

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 1418 folio 441  
city, town Towson tax map 64 tax parcel 629 tax ID number 1115010025

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District  
Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
Recorded by HABS/HAER  
Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
___ district	___ public	___ agriculture	Contributing
X building(s)	X private	___ landscape	Noncontributing
___ structure	___ both	___ commerce/trade	Contributing
___ site		___ recreation/culture	Noncontributing
___ object		___ religion	Contributing
		X social	Noncontributing
		___ transportation	Contributing
		___ work in progress	Noncontributing
		___ unknown	Contributing
		___ vacant/not in use	Noncontributing
		___ other:	Contributing
			Noncontributing

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1184

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1890, the Upper Falls School is a two-story wood frame building that has been extensively altered over the last seventy years. The structure is presently clad in asbestos shingles and has a solid random rubble stone foundation and a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The -bay-wide façade, or northwest elevation, is dominated by a central three-story tower that projects from the plane of the façade with a central paneled double-leaf metal door. The second story of the structure is pierced by two 6/6 windows and one flush single-leaf metal door that opens onto a metal fire escape supported by metal brackets and accessed by a straight-flight metal stair. A one-story, one-bay-square entry porch with a half-hipped roof supported by Tuscan columns shelters the entry, while the tower is further articulated by an open third story with a pyramidal roof with shaped eave brackets. To interior stretcher bond brick chimneys rise from the back slope of the main block and flank a central one-and-a-half-story circa 1910 ell that is two bays deep and terminates in a circa 1930 addition with a shed roof.

A circa 1960 concrete block privy is also located on the property. The one-story, one-bay-square building features an asphalt-shingled shed roof and one paneled single-leaf wood door.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1184

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

<b>Specific dates</b>	1890 ca.-present	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
-----------------------	------------------	--------------------------	---------

<b>Construction dates</b>	1890 ca., 1910 ca., 1930 ca.
---------------------------	------------------------------

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register      ☐ Maryland Register      ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Although prior documentation on this property indicates that the extant resource was constructed in 1896 on a former school lot, exterior architectural evidence indicates that the present building is most likely the school that had been sited on the lot prior to the property's purchase by local Upper Falls residents.<sup>1</sup> The 1850 county atlas indicates that the community of Upper Falls, sited at the intersection of Bradshaw Road and Raphel Road was just beginning to take shape in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Rather than a concentration of structures centered on the crossroads, a group of buildings scattered along the two roads comprised the small village.<sup>2</sup> Between 1850 and 1877, a Methodist Episcopal church, general store, and school were constructed at the center of the community. The school was sited on the south corner of the intersection.<sup>3</sup> Exterior architectural analysis did not result in a determination of the extant resource's exact age. It is possible that the present building was the school listed in the 1877 atlas, but further architectural survey and historical analysis would aid in determining the structure's age. Nevertheless, the building's form, a rectangular structure with a central projecting bell tower, is common to late 19<sup>th</sup> century schools, indicating that the building pre-dates 1896. In that year, the property was purchased by wealthy residents who spent summers in this resort town along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. According to prior documentation, the building was the setting for a Japanese Tea held in 1898 and later used for town gatherings and elections.<sup>4</sup> By 1915, the community of Upper Falls was thriving, having expanded outside its previous borders and developing a greater building density at the main crossroads.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>2</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>3</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>4</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>5</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1184

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name White Marsh Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa the Upper Falls School has been associated with the one acre of land known as tax parcel 629 of map 64 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

## 11. Form Prepared by

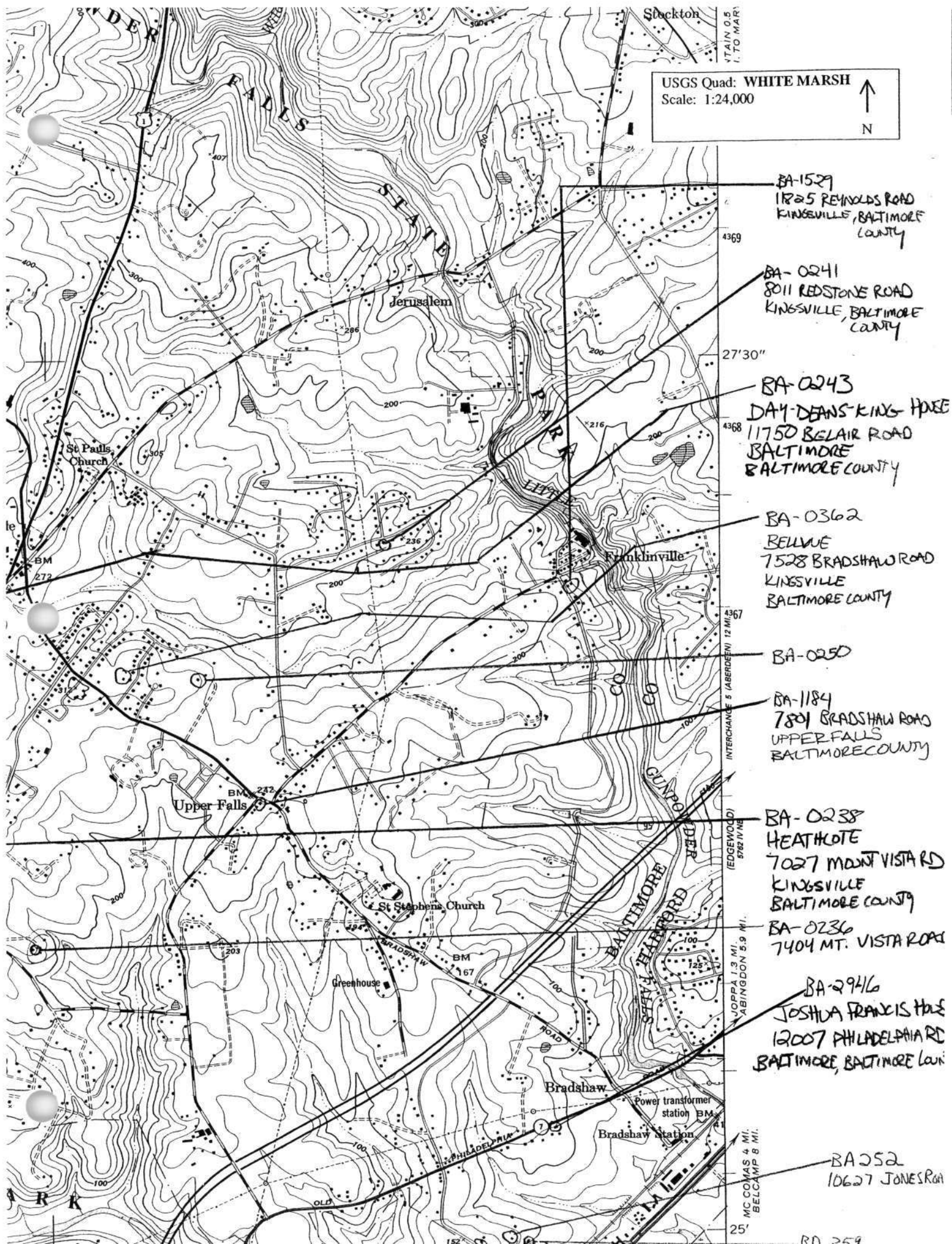
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600







BA-1184

7801 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NE ELEVATION

Lot 4





BA-1184

1801 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

NW ELEVATION

2 of 4



BA-1184

7801 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

W CORNER

30f4



BA-1184

7801 BRADSHAW ROAD, UPPER FALLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SE ELEVATION

4 of 4



BA-1184

**CASINO** - 1896 - Southeast corner of Bradshaw and Raphel Roads in village of Upper Falls. Frame, two-story building with corner tower; clapboarded, later covered with composition shingles. Built on a former school lot by subscription among summer residents who bought homes in this former resort area after the B & O line to Philadelphia opened the neighborhood to commuter living. A Japanese tea party was held here in 1898. Building was used for suppers, elections, service clubs. Acquired in 1907 by Upper Falls Permanent Building Association. In 1945, it was Upper Falls Lodge No. 175M, I.O.O.F.